

email 2/15/06 to
3/3/06

Hwang, Victor

From: Tristan Chermack [president@TITANweights.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2006 5:13 PM
To: Hwang, Victor
Subject: Communication Authorization for Application #10/655,112

Recognizing internet communications are not secure, I hereby authorize the USPTO to communicate with me concerning any subject matter of this application by electronic mail.

I understand that a copy of these communications will be made of record in the application file.

Darren Chermack

Hwang, Victor

From: Hwang, Victor
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2006 5:13 PM
To: 'president@titanweights.com'
Subject: Patent Application 10/655,112



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Mr. Chermack,

Below and attached as a .pdf file and as a Word document is a proposed examiner's amendment for your consideration. Text that is within brackets or have a strikethrough are text to be deleted. Text that is underlined is text to be added. Claims 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be canceled because the limitations of those claims are found in amended claim 1. New claims 14 to 24 are also proposed.

Please let me know whether the proposed amendments are acceptable or if you have questions or corrections. I can be reached by telephone at 571-272-4976, email at victor.hwang@uspto.gov, and by fax at 571-273-4976.

Victor Hwang
Patent Examiner, USPTO
Art Unit 3764

Do Not Enter

PROPOSED EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

In the Specification:

- A) Pages 1-2, delete the recitations beginning with "REFERENCES" and everything following that and including the first line of page 2.
- B) Page 13, line 6, delete the bracket "[".

In the Claims:

- A) Rewrite the claims as follows:
 - 1. (Currently Amended) A weight lifting system comprising:
 - a) a [[A]] weight unit comprising ~~consisting~~ of a plurality of weights with each of said weights formed of a pair of upstanding plates and at least one bar, or similar connecting device, that connects

each pair of plates;

- b) a ~~[[A]]~~ handle having opposing ends;
- c) extendable ~~Extendable~~ elements which protrude from each end of the handle;
- d) means ~~Means~~ for simultaneously extending and retracting the extendable elements to engage the weights, which include a means to allow travel to the full limit of the extendable elements;
- e) a ~~[[A]]~~ visual indicator indicating the amount of weight selected;
- f) said ~~Wherein the~~ handle comprises:
 - (i) a grip having two ends,
 - (ii) each end having an endplate permanently attached, and
 - (iii) a channel or channels in the grip in which the extendable elements may be extended

from or retracted into;

wherein the grip has a gripping surface configured to be grasped by a user, the grip containing two channels therein, each channel housing one of said extendable elements, each said extendable element comprising a rod movably disposed within a respective channel of the grip;

wherein said means for simultaneously extending the extendable elements to engage the weight comprises means for selectively advancing the rods out of opposing ends of the grip such that the rods selectively pass through apertures in first and second ends of the weights, and the gripping surface having no obstruction to grasping by a user; and

wherein said rods comprise first and second rods having teeth formed along a length thereof, the first rod moveable by a gear connected to a selection knob, the teeth of the first rod engaging a pinion gear, and the pinion gear engaging the teeth of the second rod to move the second rod.

2. (Canceled) ~~A weight system as recited in claim 1, wherein the handle contains a grip that is configured to be grasped by a user, the grip containing two channels therein, each housing an extendable element, consisting of a bar movably disposed within each channel of the grip and wherein the means for~~

~~simultaneously extending the extendable elements to engage the weight comprises means for selectively advancing the rods out of opposing ends of the grip such that the rods selectively pass through the apertures in the first and second ends of the weights, and the gripping surface having no external device or mechanism.~~

3. (Canceled) ~~A system as recited in claim 2, wherein the means for simultaneously extending the moveable elements to engage the weight comprises of a pinion gear disposed within a channel in the handle.~~

4. (Canceled) ~~A system as recited in claim 2, which the extendable element comprise:-~~

- ~~a) — a first rod having teeth formed along a length thereof, which is moveable by a gear connected to a selection knob;~~
- ~~b) — said teeth also engage a pinion gear;~~
- ~~e) — a second rod having teeth formed along the length thereof, which is moveable by the pinion gear;~~

5. (Original) A system as recited in claim 1 [[2]], further comprising means for selectively advancing the rods in desired increments out of opposing ends of the handle, or retracting the rods in desired increments into the opposing ends of the handle by means of a gear or other reduction transmission.

6. (Canceled) ~~A weight lifting system as recited in claim 2, wherein the means for selectively and simultaneously advancing the rods out of opposing ends of the grip comprises a knob turning a gear which is coupled to at least one rod of the pair of rods movably disposed within the channel.~~

7. (Original) A system as recited in claim 1 [[2]], further comprising of incremental locks that stop the extendable elements at desired positions and limit their movement.

8. (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim 1, comprising a weight stack ~~consisting of a~~ comprising said plurality of weights, each weight comprising first and second ~~consisting of two~~ upstanding weight plates connected by two bars, wherein the bars connect first and second weight plates on either side of the handle; wherein connecting bars couple the first upstanding plate and the second upstanding plate allowing the handle to rest within; wherein ~~each unit in the plurality~~ a relatively larger weight allows ~~[[the]]~~ a relatively smaller weight ~~[[unit]]~~ to nest within it, and the handle to nest within the smallest weight ~~[[unit]]~~; wherein a plurality of bars that connect the first and second weight plates ~~[[ends]]~~ of each weight ~~[[units]]~~ are stacked one beneath the other, each being an integral part of the nested stack; and lending support of all bars above them when the handle is in use; and wherein each of the first and second weight plates has an aperture extending therethrough.

9. (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim 8, wherein the ends of the handle have surfaces which are parallel to ~~[[the]]~~ end surfaces of the weight.

10. (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim 8, wherein the upstanding plates are angled away from each other slightly, making ~~[[the]]~~ a top opening larger than the bottom.

11. (Original) A system as recited in claim 8, wherein the upstanding plates are shaped to include an angle on each side causing their edges to not be parallel with one another, as to allow the top width to be wider than the bottom.

12. (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim 8, wherein the ends of ~~[[the]]~~ a first weight have surfaces which mate with corresponding end surfaces of ~~[[the]]~~ a second weight.

13. (Currently Amended) A weight lifting system as recited in claim 1, wherein ~~further comprising of a device containing:~~

there is adequate space to allow room for both hands on one handle while maintaining industry standard grip dimensions;

there is simplicity in operation simultaneously with traditional dumbbell shape and configuration; access to the handle from the bottom as easily as from the top; and

means ~~[[that]]~~ to restrict accidental movement of the extendable rods, making it ~~impossible~~ unlikely for any weight to become disengaged from the handle mechanism unless user intervention commands it and the entire unit is safely sitting on a solid surface.

14. (New) A weight lifting device comprising:

a handle unit comprising a pair of endplates with a grip therebetween;

said grip having a substantially obstruction free grip surface between said pair of endplates for grasping by a user, and at least one channel therein;

a pair of extendable rods moveable within said at least one channel of said grip;

each extendable rod having teeth along a portion thereof;

said handle unit further comprises a selection knob operatively connected to a drive gear, said drive gear engaging the teeth of a first one of said pair of extendable rods;

said teeth of said first extendable rod also engaging a pinion gear, said pinion gear engaging the teeth of a second one of said pair of said pair of extendable rods;

a plurality of weights, each weight comprising first and second weight plates joined by at least one connecting rod, and each weight plate having an aperture aligned with said at least one channel to selectively receive one of said pair of extendable rods, wherein said handle unit can be centrally positioned between said pairs of weight plates and rotation of the selection knob rotates the drive gear and moves the first extendable rod into or out of engagement with the first weight plates of a selected

number of weights via the aperture in each respective first weight plate, and the movement of the first extendable rod rotates the pinion gear and moves the second extendable rod, in a direction opposite to movement of the first extendable rod, into or out of engagement with the second weight plates of the selected number of weights via the aperture in each respective second weight plate.

15. (New) The weight lifting device of claim 14, wherein said at least one channel comprises first and second channels.

16. (New) The weight lifting device of claim 14, wherein said selection knob is located on one of said pair of end plates of said handle unit.

17. (New) The weight lifting device of claim 16, further comprising:

a drive axle mounted between said selection knob and said drive gear.

18. (New) The weight lifting device of claim 17, further comprising:

a dial gear mounted on said drive axle between said selection knob and said drive gear; and

an indicator dial operatively connected to said dial gear, wherein said indicator dial provides a user with an indication of the number of weights selected by the selection knob.

19. (New) The weight lifting device of claim 18, further comprising:

a ball and dimple engagement to provide a selected positioning of said extendable rods.

20. (New) The weight lifting device of claim 14, wherein said plurality of weights comprising nesting weights, wherein a relatively smaller weight is nested within a relatively larger weight and said handle unit is nested within a smallest one of said plurality of weights.

21. (New) The weight lifting device of claim 20, wherein said at least one connecting rod comprises first and second connecting rods joining first and second weight plates of each respective weight.

22. (New) The weight lifting device of claim 20, wherein said first and second weight plates of each respective weight have inner and outer surfaces, the inner and outer surfaces of the first weight plate being non-parallel to the inner and outer surfaces of the second weight plate, such that the first and second weight plates are angled toward one another from a top of the weight toward a bottom of the weight.

23. (New) The weight lifting device of claim 20, wherein said first and second weight plates of each respective weight have side surfaces that are angled inwardly from a top of the weight to a bottom of the weight.

24. (New) The weight lifting device of claim 14, further comprising:

- a drive axle mounted between said selection knob and said drive gear;

- a dial gear mounted on said drive axle between said selection knob and said drive gear;

- a ball and dimple engagement to provide a selected positioning of said extendable rods;

- an indicator dial operatively connected to said dial gear;

wherein said indicator dial provides a user with an indication of the number of weights selected by the selection knob; wherein said selection knob is located on one of said pair of end plates of said handle unit, and wherein said at least one channel comprises first and second channels;

wherein said plurality of weights comprise nesting weights, wherein a relatively smaller weight is nested within a relatively larger weight and said handle unit is nested within a smallest one of said plurality of weights;

wherein said at least one connecting rod comprises first and second connecting rods joining first and second weight plates of each respective weight;

wherein said first and second weight plates of each respective weight have inner and outer surfaces, the inner and outer surfaces of the first weight plate being non-parallel to the inner and outer surfaces of the second weight plate, such that the first and second weight plates are angled toward one another from a top of the weight toward a bottom of the weight; and

wherein said first and second weight plates of each respective weight have side surfaces that are angled inwardly from the top of the weight to the bottom of the weight.

Hwang, Victor

From: Hwang, Victor
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2006 5:28 PM
To: 'president@titanweights.com'
Subject: Correction to previous amendment for Patent Application 10/655,112

I revised amendment to specification.

Victor



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PROPOSED EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

In the Specification:

A) Page 1, before the recitation "REFERENCES" insert

-- CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/413,259, filed September 25, 2002.--

B) Pages 1-2, delete the recitations beginning with "REFERENCES" and everything following that and including the first line of page 2.

C) Page 13, line 6, delete the bracket "[".

In the Claims:

Amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A weight lifting system comprising:

a) a [[A]] weight unit comprising ~~consisting~~ of a plurality of weights with each of said weights formed of a pair of upstanding plates and at least one bar, or similar connecting device, that connects each pair of plates;

b) a [[A]] handle having opposing ends;

- c) extendable Extendable elements which protrude from each end of the handle;
- d) means Means for simultaneously extending and retracting the extendable elements to engage the weights, which include a means to allow travel to the full limit of the extendable elements;
- e) a ~~[[A]]~~ visual indicator indicating the amount of weight selected;
- f) said ~~Wherein the~~ handle comprises:
 - (i) a grip having two ends,
 - (ii) each end having an endplate permanently attached, and
 - (iii) a channel or channels in the grip in which the extendable elements may be extended from or retracted into;

wherein the grip has a gripping surface configured to be grasped by a user, the grip containing two channels therein, each channel housing one of said extendable elements, each said extendable element comprising a rod movably disposed within a respective channel of the grip;

wherein said means for simultaneously extending the extendable elements to engage the weight comprises means for selectively advancing the rods out of opposing ends of the grip such that the rods selectively pass through apertures in first and second ends of the weights, and the gripping surface having no obstruction to grasping by a user; and

wherein said rods comprise first and second rods having teeth formed along a length thereof, the first rod moveable by a gear connected to a selection knob, the teeth of the first rod engaging a pinion gear, and the pinion gear engaging the teeth of the second rod to move the second rod.

2. (Canceled) ~~A weight system as recited in claim 1, wherein the handle contains a grip that is configured to be grasped by a user, the grip containing two channels therein, each housing an extendable element, consisting of a bar movably disposed within each channel of the grip and wherein the means for simultaneously extending the extendable elements to engage the weight comprises means for selectively advancing the rods out of opposing ends of the grip such that the rods selectively pass through the~~

~~apertures in the first and second ends of the weights, and the gripping surface having no external device or mechanism.~~

3. (Canceled) ~~A system as recited in claim 2, wherein the means for simultaneously extending the moveable elements to engage the weight comprises of a pinion gear disposed within a channel in the handle.~~

4. (Canceled) ~~A system as recited in claim 2, which the extendable element comprise:-~~

- ~~a) — a first rod having teeth formed along a length thereof, which is moveable by a gear connected to a selection knob;~~
- ~~b) — said teeth also engage a pinion gear;~~
- ~~e) — a second rod having teeth formed along the length thereof, which is moveable by the pinion gear;~~

5. (Original) A system as recited in claim 1 [[2]], further comprising means for selectively advancing the rods in desired increments out of opposing ends of the handle, or retracting the rods in desired increments into the opposing ends of the handle by means of a gear or other reduction transmission.

6. (Canceled) ~~A weight lifting system as recited in claim 2, wherein the means for selectively and simultaneously advancing the rods out of opposing ends of the grip comprises a knob turning a gear which is coupled to at least one rod of the pair of rods movably disposed within the channel.~~

7. (Original) A system as recited in claim 1 [[2]], further comprising of incremental locks that stop the extendable elements at desired positions and limit their movement.

8. (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim 1, comprising a weight stack consisting of a

comprising said plurality of weights, each weight comprising first and second consisting of two
upstanding weight plates connected by two bars, wherein the bars connect first and second weight plates
on either side of the handle; wherein connecting bars couple the first upstanding plate and the second
upstanding plate allowing the handle to rest within; wherein ~~each unit in the plurality~~ a relatively larger
weight allows ~~[[the]]~~ a relatively smaller weight ~~[[unit]]~~ to nest within it, and the handle to nest within
the smallest weight ~~[[unit]]~~; wherein a plurality of bars that connect the first and second weight plates
~~[[ends]]~~ of each weight ~~[[units]]~~ are stacked one beneath the other, each being an integral part of the
nested stack; and lending support of all bars above them when the handle is in use; and wherein each of
the first and second weight plates has an aperture extending therethrough.

9. (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim 8, wherein the ends of the handle have surfaces
which are parallel to ~~[[the]]~~ end surfaces of the weight.

10. (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim 8, wherein the upstanding plates are angled away
from each other slightly, making ~~[[the]]~~ a top opening larger than the bottom.

11. (Original) A system as recited in claim 8, wherein the upstanding plates are shaped to include an
angle on each side causing their edges to not be parallel with one another, as to allow the top
width to be wider than the bottom.

12. (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim 8, wherein the ends of ~~[[the]]~~ a first weight have
surfaces which mate with corresponding end surfaces of ~~[[the]]~~ a second weight.

13. (Currently Amended) A weight lifting system as recited in claim 1, wherein ~~further comprising of a~~
~~device containing:~~

there is adequate space to allow room for both hands on one handle while maintaining industry standard grip dimensions;

there is simplicity in operation simultaneously with traditional dumbbell shape and configuration; access to the handle from the bottom as easily as from the top; and

means ~~[[that]]~~ to restrict accidental movement of the extendable rods, making it ~~impossible~~ unlikely for any weight to become disengaged from the handle mechanism unless user intervention commands it and the entire unit is safely sitting on a solid surface.

14. (New) A weight lifting device comprising:

a handle unit comprising a pair of endplates with a grip therebetween;

said grip having a substantially obstruction free grip surface between said pair of endplates for grasping by a user, and at least one channel therein;

a pair of extendable rods moveable within said at least one channel of said grip;

each extendable rod having teeth along a portion thereof;

said handle unit further comprises a selection knob operatively connected to a drive gear, said drive gear engaging the teeth of a first one of said pair of extendable rods;

said teeth of said first extendable rod also engaging a pinion gear, said pinion gear engaging the teeth of a second one of said pair of said pair of extendable rods;

a plurality of weights, each weight comprising first and second weight plates joined by at least one connecting rod, and each weight plate having an aperture aligned with said at least one channel to selectively receive one of said pair of extendable rods, wherein said handle unit can be centrally positioned between said pairs of weight plates and rotation of the selection knob rotates the drive gear and moves the first extendable rod into or out of engagement with the first weight plates of a selected number of weights via the aperture in each respective first weight plate, and the movement of the first extendable rod rotates the pinion gear and moves the second extendable rod, in a direction opposite to

movement of the first extendable rod, into or out of engagement with the second weight plates of the selected number of weights via the aperture in each respective second weight plate.

15. (New) The weight lifting device of claim 14, wherein said at least one channel comprises first and second channels.

16. (New) The weight lifting device of claim 14, wherein said selection knob is located on one of said pair of end plates of said handle unit.

17. (New) The weight lifting device of claim 16, further comprising:

a drive axle mounted between said selection knob and said drive gear.

18. (New) The weight lifting device of claim 17, further comprising:

a dial gear mounted on said drive axle between said selection knob and said drive gear; and

an indicator dial operatively connected to said dial gear, wherein said indicator dial provides a user with an indication of the number of weights selected by the selection knob.

19. (New) The weight lifting device of claim 18, further comprising:

a ball and dimple engagement to provide a selected positioning of said extendable rods.

20. (New) The weight lifting device of claim 14, wherein said plurality of weights comprising nesting weights, wherein a relatively smaller weight is nested within a relatively larger weight and said handle unit is nested within a smallest one of said plurality of weights.

21. (New) The weight lifting device of claim 20, wherein said at least one connecting rod comprises

first and second connecting rods joining first and second weight plates of each respective weight.

22. (New) The weight lifting device of claim 20, wherein said first and second weight plates of each respective weight have inner and outer surfaces, the inner and outer surfaces of the first weight plate being non-parallel to the inner and outer surfaces of the second weight plate, such that the first and second weight plates are angled toward one another from a top of the weight toward a bottom of the weight.

23. (New) The weight lifting device of claim 20, wherein said first and second weight plates of each respective weight have side surfaces that are angled inwardly from a top of the weight to a bottom of the weight.

24. (New) The weight lifting device of claim 14, further comprising:

- a drive axle mounted between said selection knob and said drive gear;

- a dial gear mounted on said drive axle between said selection knob and said drive gear;

- a ball and dimple engagement to provide a selected positioning of said extendable rods;

- an indicator dial operatively connected to said dial gear;

- wherein said indicator dial provides a user with an indication of the number of weights selected by the selection knob; wherein said selection knob is located on one of said pair of end plates of said handle unit, and wherein said at least one channel comprises first and second channels;

- wherein said plurality of weights comprise nesting weights, wherein a relatively smaller weight is nested within a relatively larger weight and said handle unit is nested within a smallest one of said plurality of weights;

- wherein said at least one connecting rod comprises first and second connecting rods joining first and second weight plates of each respective weight;

wherein said first and second weight plates of each respective weight have inner and outer surfaces, the inner and outer surfaces of the first weight plate being non-parallel to the inner and outer surfaces of the second weight plate, such that the first and second weight plates are angled toward one another from a top of the weight toward a bottom of the weight; and

wherein said first and second weight plates of each respective weight have side surfaces that are angled inwardly from the top of the weight to the bottom of the weight.

Hwang, Victor

From: Tristan Chermack [president@TITANweights.com]
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2006 10:23 AM
To: Hwang, Victor
Subject: Re: Application #10/655,112

Hwang, Victor wrote:

> OK. It will be done.
>
> Let me know if you have any other questions.
>
> Victor

Thanks for all your help. You've been absolutely great!

Tristan

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Tristan Chermack [mailto:president@TITANweights.com]
> Sent: Friday, March 03, 2006 10:16 AM
> To: Hwang, Victor
> Subject: Re: Application #10/655,112

>

>

> Mr. Hwang,

>

> I authorize you to make the changes that you submitted via email,
> specifically the revised version you sent shortly after the first email.

>

>

> Darren 'Tristan' Chermack

>

>

> Hwang, Victor wrote:

>> Good morning Mr. Chermack,

>>

>> With your authorization, I'll make the changes by Examiner's amendment and then you should receive a Notice of Allowance shortly thereafter. You should know that there are other fees to be paid once the application is allowed in order for the application to be issued as a patent.

>>

>> So, just let me know whether I am authorized to make the changes that were emailed to you earlier.

>>

>> Victor

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Tristan Chermack [mailto:president@TITANweights.com]
>> Sent: Friday, March 03, 2006 9:51 AM
>> To: Hwang, Victor

>> Subject: Re: Application #10/655,112

>>

>>

>> Hwang, Victor wrote:

>>> Mr. Chermack,

>>>

>>> I was inquiring whether a decision had been made regarding the proposed amendment that was emailed to you on the 15th of Feb.

>>>

>>> Victor Hwang

>> Victor,

>>

>> I've completed my review of the proposed amendment, and it looks fine.

>> I can't see anything that needs to be updated or changed.

>>

>> What is the next step?

>>

>>

>> Tristan Chermack

>>

>>

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